

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS: AFSP, AORG, OECD

SUBJ: 1974 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET C(73)135

REF: OECD PARIS 24285

1. WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE ANY INCREASES IN REAL RESOURCES OFFSET BY REDUCTIONS IN LOWER PRIORITY PROJECTS. THEREFORE, WHILE THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN REAL RESOURCES IS MODERATE, WE WELCOME THE MISSION'S EXPECTATIONS THAT FURTHER BUDGET REDUCTIONS WILL BE AFFECTED DURING DISCUSSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND BUDGET COMMITTEE.

2. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE BASED ON OUR INITIAL READING OF C(73)135:

(A) PARA 58. WHILE WE AGREE THAT THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ECONOMICS DIVISION HAS GROWN AND INCLUDES TASKS OF HIGH UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIORITY, THE ADDITION OF 3 A2/3 POSITIONS DOUBLES THE PRO-

FESSONAL STAFF AND SEEMS HIGH. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHERE THESE POSITIONS WERE TRANSFERRED FROM.

(B) PARA 148. WE DO NOT SEE THE JUSTIFICATION FOR A NEW A2/3 POSITION. THE WORK PROGRAM OF DAC HAS DECREASED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THIS SHOULD MORE THAN OFFSET ANY SMALL ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD THAT MIGHT BE CAUSED BY NEW MEMBERS. IF NOT, THAT EVENTUALLY COULD BE FACED WHEN AND IF THE EVENTUALITY ARISES.

(C) PARA 158. THE SAME ARGUMENTS APPLY TO THE PROPOSED NEW SECRETARIAL POSITION.

(D) PARA 183. WHILE THE TRANSFERS ARE DESIRABLE TO OTHER, HIGHER PRIORITY, AREAS OF THE SECRETARIAT, WE WONDER IF FURTHER REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE DECREASING EMPHASIS ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

(E) PARA 195. JUSTIFICATION SEEMS INADEQUATE FOR INCREASING TRAVEL FUNDS FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

(F) PARAS 232 AND 233. IN VIEW OF THE MINIMAL PROGRESS IN LIBERALIZING INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER EXPLANATION OF WHY THIS SUB-PROGRAM NEEDS STRENGTHENING.

(G) PARAS 373 AND 374. WE THINK THE PROJECTED CONFERENCES FOR MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SHOULD BE MORE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED BOTH FOR COST AND FOR CONTENT. AS IS CLEAR FROM ANNEX 1, 3(C) (II), P. 466, THIS INCREASE IS FAR OUT OF LINE WITH REST OF SECRETARIAT.

(H) GENERAL COMMENT ON FORMAT FOR PART II: ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES WOULD BE FACILITATED IF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN EACH ACTIVITY AND ASSESSMENT SCALES WERE PROVIDED.

3. MISSION MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING AND ON ITS OWN ANALYSIS IN SEEKING FURTHER BUDGET REDUCTIONS. RUSH

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